

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7018
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Boyd Sam Ray of
Mountain City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Boyd Sam Ray; and

WHEREAS, Boyd Ray was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Newland, North Carolina, on December 23, 1917, and moving with his family to Mountain City, Tennessee, when he was two years old, Mr. Ray became a longtime resident of Johnson County and a highly respected member of the Mountain City community; and

WHEREAS, active in debating, dramatics, and forensic activities while also playing baseball at the college level, Boyd Ray continued his education at Mars Hill College and Milligan College before graduating from East Tennessee University in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray was accepted for flight training by the United States Army Air Corps, and graduated from Kelly Fields, Texas, in October of 1941 as a Second Lieutenant, thereby earning the distinction of being the first person from Johnson County to become a military pilot; and

WHEREAS, he spent the years of World War II in Wichita, Kansas, where he was assigned to Cessna and Beech aircraft companies as a test pilot and administrative officer; he supervised the production and delivery of aircraft to the U.S. Army Air Corps prior to leaving the service in 1946 at the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, Boyd Ray served for twenty years with acumen and alacrity in a management capacity in manufacturing, including standing as Staff Assistant to the Vice

President and Work Manager of Sperry Farragut in Bristol, Tennessee; Production Superintendent of Assembly at Raytheon, also in Bristol; Manufacturing Manager for Poly Scientific Corporation of Blacksburg, Virginia; and Plant Manager for Sprague Electric Company in Hillsville, Virginia; in these positions he earned the respect of his peers and employees alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, following his distinguished career in manufacturing, Mr. Ray returned to Mountain City to pursue his lifelong desire to raise cattle on his farm in Doe Valley; at the same time, he began developing commercial property in Mountain City and a housing development in Doe Valley; and

WHEREAS, actively involved in his community through the years, he expressed his interest and concern through service as a member of the Rotary Club, Charter President of the Mountain City Junior Chamber of Commerce, President of the Johnson County Farm Bureau, and a member of the Board of Directors of Tri-State Growers and the Mountain Breeders Association; Mr. Ray later accepted an appointment to the Industrial Board of Johnson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray was an active and devout member of the Baptist church, first becoming a member in Mountain City as a youngster of age seven, and ultimately serving as Superintendent of the Sunday School there; he also faithfully attended, with his family, a Baptist church in each city of his residence while away from Mountain City; and

WHEREAS, Boyd Ray demonstrated his love for the Lord by serving for more than thirty years as a Bible teacher for young married couples and adult men's groups before becoming, in 1967, a deacon in the Baptist church in Hillsville, Virginia, where he also served as President of the Men's Brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, more than forty years after earning a membership in the Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Dramatic Fraternity, Mr. Ray joined the Johnson City Community Theatre, and during the decade of the 1980s was given major character roles in nine different productions, including two musicals; and

WHEREAS, at the age of seventy-three, he wrote, for the benefit of his children and grandchildren, his memoirs, which included more than sixty-five short stories in vignette form;

several of these stories were published regionally in a 1996 collection entitled *Blue Mountains and Green Valleys: Stories from East Tennessee*; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, when he was eighty-three years old, Boyd Ray established a \$100,000 annuity scholarship program at each of the schools he attended in the 1930s, Mars Hill College and Milligan College, for the benefit of students from Johnson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of thirty-six years, the former Lena Stout, until her passing in 1978; he was the devoted father of three children: Suzanne and Elizabeth, who went on to become pharmacists, and Joe, who became a dentist; and also was the proud grandfather of three grandsons and one granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Boyd Ray was, throughout his life, a true patriot and a staunch conservative who loved and trusted his fellow man; he believed that in business dealings honesty and integrity must prevail, and that in personal relationships the principles of truth, purity, and fidelity were paramount; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Boyd Sam Ray, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends and colleagues of Boyd Sam Ray.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.